

Regional San South Sacramento County Agricultural and Habitat Lands Recycled Water, Groundwater Storage, and Conjunctive Use Program

Physical Public Benefits A.1 Recreation Benefits

The estimate additional visitor use as a result of this program, we used a study by Loomis and Creel (1992), which estimates recreation benefits due to increased flows to the San Joaquin and Stanislaus Rivers. The total benefits of such flows, which depended on the increase in willingness to pay (WTP) of recreation users as well as increased visitation as the result of increased flows. We considered the change in river flow and visitation patterns in our project area with that of Loomis and Creel (1992). The average annual discharge of the Stanislaus River is approximately 700,000 acre-feet (USGS 2017), and is approximately 7 million acre-feet (Benke and Cushing 2006) for the San Joaquin River. The average annual discharge of the Cosumnes River is approximately 600,000 acre-feet. Therefore we chose to use the values for the Stanislaus River, as the rivers are of similar flow rates, and the increase in flow rate from this project to the one described in Loomis and Creel (1992) is very similar. However, recreation visitation for the Stanislaus River in the study is unknown. Since visitation to the Cosumnes River Preserve is approximately 60,000 visitors annually. As a smaller river, we assume the visitation of the Stanislaus River is similar or at least comparable. We also chose to use the value associated with the latest timing pattern in the year. Our reason for this choice is that the Regional San project will see river flow increases in the fall, which will mostly benefit fall-run Chinook.